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Subject: WildRice Prelimfinding_summary Document 2_sml_comments PPsEdits.docx

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From: Pibble, Ralph (MPCA), MPCA321BEAA6D2548E4B296F71E3230CC90>

To: Rude Young, Lori (MPCA) <LoriAhn2cf77f48043f4334bc082470907dd71e>

Here is the last version had been the pager; was current page when the plug got pulled had further changes. Taylor and Leanne have a new design template ready whenever ends

DRAFT

4/9/2014 10:54 AM

RELEASE**MPCA Releases Preliminary Recommendations for Wild Rice Standard**Contact: ralph.pribble@state.mn.us or 651-256-7608**RELEASE****MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

A media availability session will be held at the MPCA on Thursday, February 27, 2014. The session will be held at the MPCA's 10th Street office at 2:00 PM. The Commissioner's conference room. Members of the media who would like to attend in person are requested to call Ralph Pribble (above) or A direct number will be provided to those who wish to do so prior to the session. A video of the session will be available after ftp://files.pca.state.mn.us/pub/file_requests/Wild_Rice_Sulfate_Standard/.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency drafted preliminary recommendations for water quality standards for rice. The recommendations follow several years of study to determine sulfate whether surface water, soil, and sediment are adequate to protect wild rice from sulfate and sulfide and streams.

The studies were prompted by a directive from the 2011 Minnesota Legislature to change how to set wild rice rules on the existing sulfate standard. The existing standard would undergo a change in 2014.

Key findings of the MPCA announced today include:

- Sulfate in surface waters is not toxic to wild rice seedlings.
- The amount of sulfate in sediment affected both by sulfate levels in the water and the sediment can mitigate the effect of elevated sulfate on wild rice.

MPCA's preliminary recommendations include:

- The existing sulfate standard quantify 10 milligrams per liter is reasonable. In addition to agency consider developing a standard for both sediment. Further work will determine appropriate sulfate standard, but it would be in the geographic profile.
- The existing standard should continue to apply to both lakes and streams.
- Site-specific sulfate standards may be needed for lower water higher iron in sediment.
- The MPCA is considering changing the classification and protection waters around wild rice to reflect wild rice's benefits to humans and wildlife.

The MPCA will seek preliminary recommendations and findings from the Wild Rice Advisory Committee, Minnesota Tribes, the US Environmental Research Agency in studies. An expert review panel will likely be convened in late spring for interested public input to the panel. The

The MPCA is developing factors to define the state's water uses for production of wild rice. The goal is to put these factors into a public rule by the end of March 2014. It will be used to help refine the factors.

Any proposed change to the classification and protection adopted into Minnesota's water and would require the approval of the EPA.

For more information on the ~~Minnesota~~ standard for sulfate, visit
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/ktqh1083>.

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